Assistance for setting up of jails

2261. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether any assistance financial aid is being given by the Central Government to the States in setting up new jail, particularly model jails, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Under the award of the Eighth Finance Commission, Government have provided an amount of Rs. 135.56 crores for the upgradation of standard of jail administration for the period 1985—89 for 16 States. Out of this an amount of Rs. 67.97 crores has been provided for the construction of sub-jails (except in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Sikkim and Tripura). An amount of Rs. 33.89 crores representing 25 per cent of the amount has been released eo the States in 1985-86 on account basis. This amount pertains to all the schemes for the jail sector and not merely to the construction of sub-jails.

Disputes between the F.C.I. and the Foodgrains procuring agencies of Punjab Government

2262. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various agencies of Punjab Government procure foodgrains for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) but the latter does not take possession of the same for a long time;

(b) if so, what is the nature of disputes that have often arisen between the FCI and Punjab Government agencies during the last two years; and

(c) what considerations led to the abolition of the Joint Committee comprising FCI and State Organisations for the formulation of plans for movement of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Procurement of foodgrains in Punjab is also done by State agencies on behalf of the FFCI. The take-over of food-grains by the F.C.I. from the State agencies is a continuous process.

(b) Operational matters requiring mutual consultation may arise from time to time.

(c) Plans for the movement of foodgrains are formulated by the FCI at meetings in which representatives of the Punjab Government and its agencies also participate

Freedom of information

2263. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries where citizens enjoy freedom of information;

(b) whether India has ratified the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to grant freedom of information in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign funds

2264. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of 26th May,